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DAKIN BROS. OF CHINA, LIMITED, LONDON-HONGKONG-AMOI.

(Telephone No. 65.)

Hongkong, 16th December, 1889.



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THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY, [5]

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Letters on Editorial matters to be sent to "The Editor" and not to individual members of the staff.

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Advertisements are requested to forward all notices intended for insertion in this paper no later than Three o'clock on the day preceding the day of publication of the paper.

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Subscribers to the Hongkong Telegraph are respectfully reminded that all Subscriptions are payable in advance.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1889

TELEGRAMS.

(Special to Hongkong Telegraph.)

THE NEW HOPPO.

H.E. Kuang Ying, the New Hoppo of Canton, took over the seals of office this morning, at 10 o'clock, from his predecessor, Chang, who leaves for Peking, overland, in a fortnight.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

FOR the present cold weather, a fine selection of Saxony Tweeds, suitable for Ulsters, Overcoats and Suits, is now being shown by The Hall & Holt & Co., Limited.—*Adv.*

WE are informed by the agent of the Messageries Maritimes that the Company's steamer *Yau-ady*, with the new French mail, left Saigon for this port at 10 a.m. to-day.

"But, doctor, you said last week that the patient would certainly die, and now he is perfectly well." "Madam, the confirmation of my prognosis is only a question of time."

An emergency meeting of St. John Lodge, No. 618, S.C., will be held in Freemasons' Hall, 218, Queen's Road, this evening, at 8.30 for 9 o'clock precisely. Visiting brethren are cordially invited.

CUSTOMER: You don't call this sky-blue stuff, do you? You ought to call it milk and water, instead of milk! Milkman (politely): "So I do, sir, I always say, 'Milk-and-water,' which, as you are a man of education, you will know is foreign for water. I always keep within the law, sir."

DANISH apples are said to be driving the American fruit from the English market. It would seem, therefore, that if there be something rotten in Denmark, it is not the apples.

WE are informed by the agents (Messrs. D. Sassoon, Sons & Co.) that the steamer *Japan*, with mails from Calcutta, left Singapore for this port to-day, and may be expected on or about the 24th inst.

A LONDON music hall joke very popular at present is: "First Artist.—Who has the smallest foot in the House of Commons? Second Artist.—The Grand Old Man, because nobody can step into his shoes. (Roars of applause from the audience.)"

EMILE de Lavallée, the European publicist, says that a hundred years hence, leaving China out of the question, there will be two colossal powers in the world beside which Germany, England, France and Italy will be as pigmies—the United States and Russia.

MRS. St. Louis: "I see that Richard Wagner's gondola has been sold in Venice." Mrs. Chicago: "Why, I thought that Wagner was the sleeping-car man." Mrs. St. Louis: "Oh, no; Wagner the composer, you know. The gondola was his favourite instrument."

THE Mayor in France who has the smallest constituency is in the commune of Morteau. He is Mayor of twelve inhabitants, and the taxes last year amounted to \$9.20. But he was invited, all the same, by the Government to meet his fellow-Mayors at the Paris banquet.

ABOUT eleven o'clock this morning a chit coolie delivered a note at the Registrar's Office, and when going out Bailiff Howell saw him. As there was a writ out against the man for a small amount, he arrested him and sent the chit round by deputy, much to the coolie's dismay.

THE Young Man (rapturously)—And now, Flissie, it only remains for you to name the happy day. Please make it soon, very soon, darling. The Young Woman (in the kitchen a few moments later)—Bridget, would it interfere with any of your engagements if I should be married three weeks from next Wednesday evening.

AN expert says: "It takes two years for the champagne wine to properly champagne. There is a heavy loss from breakage. When the glass develops a champagne cellar sounds like a battle. The bottles explode with a tremendous force and are dangerous. Over 20 per cent of the bottles break. That is one reason why champagne is so high."

A GENTLEMAN who died recently near Berlin desired to have his tombstone decorated by the following legend: "I believe in one Saviour—in him everybody must believe, of whatever religion he may be—and he is Death, for he releases us from all our troubles." This has been done, and now the parish authorities have requested the heirs to remove the gravestone.

THE three men charged yesterday at the Police Court with keeping a gambling house at No. 319 Queen's Road, Central, for the purpose of fleeing returned emigrants from California and Australia, were to-day committed for trial at the next Criminal Session by Mr. Robinson. As the matters *sub judice* the reasons for not commencing the doing of these worthies, as promised by us, are obvious.

SARAH BERNHARDT has a new fad. She now has a habit of arising at 4 o'clock in the morning, dressing herself as a man, and prowling about the remote streets and byways of Paris until 7 o'clock. Then she returns to her home, undresses, and goes to bed. She recently remarked that she had thought that she was too old to learn anything new about Paris; but she has been taught a great many facts hitherto unknown to her by her maternal wanderings.

VITAL statistics continue to show a steady decline in the number of births in France from year to year. The official figures for 1888 show that the excess of births over deaths in that year was only 44,772, against 65,536 in 1887. In 1884 there were 937,558 births; in 1885, 924,758 births; or 13,200 less; in 1886, 912,838 births, or 11,720 less; in 1887, 899,333 births, or 13,505 less; in 1888, 882,609 births, or 16,724 less. At this rate of decline it is easy to see that the number of deaths in France will soon exceed the births.

It is on the *taipis* that a Chinese company will soon be formed here to establish a sugar refinery in Formosa under the directorships of Yung Wing, a naturalised Chinese-American citizen, now living at Hartford, Connecticut, U.S.A., formerly Chinese deputy-minister at Washington in 1876, and Chun Afoing, the well-known and wealthy sugar-cane planter of Honolulu. The former gentleman, we learn, will arrive in this colony from the United States some time next month to start the company, seven-tenths of whose capital have already been subscribed.

THE sixtieth birthday of the "Silent Member" of the Legislative Council, the Hon. Wong Shing, was celebrated in grand style to-day at his residence, in Peel Street. As early as the break of day the house, gallantly decorated with presentation scrolls, was all aglow with brightly lit lamps, and the sons, grand-children, and relatives of the patriarch filed into the reception rooms to offer their congratulations to their venerable progenitor on the completion of his sixtieth winter. As the evening wore on strings of hired and private sedan-chairs, filled with friends, arrived.

It is pretty generally understood that the Author of all the Russian successes extraordinary physical strength. Of this he lately furnished a new proof at the palace of Fredericksburg. A German confessor, Herr Lowe, was entertaining the guests with a performance of several neatly-executed tricks, and displayed remarkable dexterity in the manipulation of a pack of cards. At the conclusion of the performance, the Emperor said to him that he knew a card trick which would puzzle him to imitate. Whereupon the Czar took a fresh pack of 52 cards, and tore it right through the middle with a rapid jerk of his hands.

THE Band of the A. & S. Highlanders will play the following programme at the Regatta, to-morrow afternoon, the 19th inst.:—

Grand March, "Triumphal" (Edwards)
Voluntary, "The Grandeur" (Widdows)
Selections of "Glorious Regiments" (Edwards)
Polka, "The River of Years" (Edwards)
The Band will play the following programme on Friday afternoon, the 20th inst.:—
Overture, "The Grandeur" (Edwards)
Voluntary, "The Grandeur" (Edwards)
Polka, "The River of Years" (Edwards)
The Band will play the following programme on Saturday afternoon, the 21st inst.:—
Overture, "The Grandeur" (Edwards)
Voluntary, "The Grandeur" (Edwards)
Polka, "The River of Years" (Edwards)

WOMAN—How long will it take me to get a divorce in this court? Chicago Judge—That depends on circumstances, madam. Woman—What circumstances? Chicago Judge—Well—er—it depends altogether on whether you are married. Woman—Do you suppose I'm fooling about here if I wasn't? Chicago Judge—Here's your decree, madam.

THE following gentlemen will represent the "Medicals" in their cricket match against the Royal Artillery to-morrow (play to commence punctually at 11 a.m.):—Suff Surgeon Brown, R.N.; Surgeon Moore, R.N.; Surgeon Shuttleworth, R.N.; Deputy Surgeon-General Paterson, A.M.S.; Surgeon-Major B. Brown, A.M.S.; Surgeon-Major Robbins, A.M.S.; Surgeon Will, A.M.S.; Surgeon Yarr, A.M.S.; Dr. Bell, Dr. Lawson and Dr. Atkinson.

"Say something into the phonograph that I shall treasure for my guidance," said Kaiser Wilhelm to Bismarck and Molke, as Edison was revealing the extraordinary capacities of his instrument. "The opinions of to-day" (said Bismarck) "are not those of all time. The fashions of wisdom are various, and each generation must get through its own allotted task of thinking and doing." Marshal Molke's message was, "God is the King of kings." "Ah, well," said the Kaiser, when he heard them, "both will live to speak many times more and at greater length."

SAYS our Arizona contemporary:—Many of our subscribers are asking why *The Kicker* has nothing to say in favor of either of the local tickets in the field. There are two reasons: First, because we were not nominated on either ticket, and second, because a bigger gang of rascals were never up for office. We wanted to run for Mayor. It is no use being over modest about such things. We are better fitted for the position than any other man in town. The office should have been glad to seek us. It didn't do so, and so we sought it. We should have filled the position with credit to all, but the rascals wanted a tool, and so they nominated "Doc" Burrows and "Hank" Jones to head the two tickets. Neither of these men will ever serve. Within one month we will have both of them back at Joliet to serve out their unexpired sentences.

SUPREME COURT.

IN CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

(Before Acting Chief Justice Fielding Clarke.)

The December Sessions opened this morning, there being ten cases and fourteen prisoners on the list.

THE FRASER-SMITH v. BRANDT LIEB CASE. In this case, which was adjourned from last Session, Mr. Phillips, barrister-at-law, (instructed by Mr. Webber) appeared for the prosecutor, and the defendant was unrepresented.

Mr. Phillips asked if it would be convenient to his lordship to take the case, which stood first on the list? All the witnesses had been subpoenaed for this morning.

His lordship—Oh! Yes.

The Acting Colonial General (Mr. A. J. Leach)—It will not be convenient to me.

His lordship—Oh! that is another matter. I think Government prosecutions should have precedence, if no communications have been made to you.

THE CAMPOS CASE. Mr. Pollock said that he had only just been instructed to defend in this case and he wanted a day fixed for it, as the information had been only filed yesterday, and he had not had time to study it. Besides, there were several legal questions which might arise in the case.

His lordship declined to fix a special day, but offered to put it at the end of the list. He found it very inconvenient to fix days, as sometimes the Court found itself with half a day on which nothing could be done.

A JUDICIAL JOKE.

The Attorney-General also mentioned a case in which Dr. Ho Kai prosecuted, and which he desired should be put at the end of the list of cases in which the Crown prosecuted.

His lordship—What is the use of making a list? Hadn't I better begin at the wrong end, and work my way up that way? (laughter).

BRANDT OBJECTS.

The defendant in the libel case here arose and said—May it please your lordship, I have retained Mr. Francis in my libel suit, and he is not here, so I shall be forced to plead myself. I was given to understand that the case was not coming on first, and some of my subpoenas have not been issued yet.

His lordship—May I ask whether there was any understanding that this case should not come on first, Mr. Attorney?

The Attorney-General—I know of no understanding whatever. It was mentioned to me yesterday that a day had been fixed, and I said that I was sure no such arrangement had been made.

His lordship—Is there anything we can go on with?

The Attorney-General mentioned several cases. His lordship (to Brandt)—How is it you are not ready?

Brandt—I am not.

His lordship—It is possible you may have been taken by surprise, but you must get ready as soon as you can.

Mr. Phillips—He has had a month, and used his right to traverse from last session. What difference can a day make to him?

His lordship—I shall go on through the list.

A SERIOUS FORGERY.

Two coolies were indicted with forging tallies, with intent to defraud, last week.

The jurors were—Yun Sien Chan, C. P. M., Fyfe, G. J. A. Astor, W. T. Shaw, H. Sheppard, J. M. Pereira, and E. J. Hyndman.

The evidence showed that the prisoners went to a contractor and presented tallies, purporting to prove that they had carried a quantity of bricks to the Peak, and were entitled to \$2, and 15 cents.

The first prisoner was sentenced to six months' imprisonment, and the second to one year.

MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held this afternoon. There were present:—His Excellency the Governor (Sir William Des Voeux); the Acting Colonial Secretary, (Mr. A. Lister); Mr. H. E. Woodhouse, Acting Colonial Treasurer; Mr. S. Brown, Surveyor-General; Mr. W. M. Deane, Captain Superintendent of Police; Mr. N. G. Mitchell-Innes, Acting Registrar-General; Messrs. P. Ryrie, Wong Shing, C. P. Chater, A. P. MacEwen, J. J. Keswick, (unofficial members) and Mr. A. Sell, Clerk of Councils.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

THE GAP ROCK LIGHTHOUSE.

His Excellency, in moving the first reading of the "Ordinance to Amend the Merchant Shipping Consolidation Ordinance, 1879," said: "You are aware that a considerable expenditure has been going on for some time in the purchase of vessels and other things connected with the Gap Rock Lighthouse. When that undertaking was first taken in hand there was an understanding, that received the unanimous support of the unofficial members of the Council, that a special tonnage rate should be levied to pay for the lighthouse. The Ordinance referring to light-houses, and enabling revenue to be raised for their maintenance, only referred to lighthouses within the waters of the Colony, and I am given to understand that it would be illegal to levy any rate for a lighthouse situate in Chinese territory, as the Gap Rock light will be, without a special Ordinance. For that reason it has been necessary to bring in this amending Ordinance in order that we may commence to levy a rate at the beginning of the new year, the amount of it having been calculated in the Estimates. I regret that by an oversight the same amount slipped into the Estimates as is put down for last year. I think a levy of one cent will be sufficient, instead of one and a half cents, as authorised by this Council. I think we may try one cent, and if it turns out to be not enough it may be increased. But I think it will be sufficient. Still I think we ought to begin, as the rate will spread over a large number of years, and would rather leave myself in the hands of the members as to the number. It will cost more than was first imagined, I think, and it may be a reason for leaving the whole amount, but still, as we are comparatively prosperous, I think one cent will be sufficient. However, I do not pledge myself absolutely to that, but at all events I want some measure to enable me to raise anything. For that reason I beg you to pass the first reading of this Bill to-day."

The Acting Colonial Secretary moved that it pass.

Mr. MacEwen—The discussion generally took place on the second reading of a Bill, but it may be as well to know what to infer from your remarks. If I remember distinctly, at the time the levy was granted it was understood that the increased tax would be merely used to pay the cost of erection and then withdrawn. His Excellency—Most distinctly. One cent will only raise \$30,000, and we shall be lucky if we get off with less than \$120,000. This will be called the Gap Rock lighthouse and its maintenance will fall on this tax when its erection is paid for. I should like this passed, as it will be very inconvenient to levy this for a broken period of the year; and I should like, unless there are strong reasons to the contrary, to have another meeting before the 1st January. If you prefer meeting at a later date I am quite willing, but I did not otherwise contemplate calling a meeting before the New Year. Practically this is a matter which the Council have already agreed to, so perhaps it would be better to suspend the Standing Orders, and finish it.

The Acting Colonial Secretary moved the suspension of the Standing Orders, and it was agreed to. He added, in explanation to Mr. MacEwen, that although the light was not yet in existence the expenditure had already commenced, very large sums having been laid out in preparing the site, and in the erection of a tug for service there. Of course that would go on until the completion of the work.

His Excellency—I understood Mr. MacEwen to direct my attention to the inquiry whether the tax would be still levied when the work was finished.

Mr. MacEwen—I did. I asked if, as soon as the light was completed, the levy would be withdrawn.

The Council then went into Committee.

Mr. Ryrie hoped that Mr. MacEwen's inquiry would be officially noted, because when the matter was first mooted it was understood that when the lighthouse was completed and paid for the light dues would be considerably reduced, or withdrawn altogether.

They were never intended to form a source of revenue to the Colony, after the oil lights had been paid for, but they had been.

The Acting Colonial Secretary—Have they been paid for?

Mr. Ryrie—Long ago.

The Acting Colonial Secretary rejoined that he was not sure.

His Excellency promised that the inquiry should be recorded, with his reply. As to the past promises to which Mr. Ryrie had referred, he could not guarantee that his promise would be binding on his successor, but he assured them that he had no intention of applying this levy to any other purpose, unless some unforeseen necessity arose, which was unlikely.

In that case he would be guided by the Council. He did not see why the levying of the rate should be placed in his hands, and he thought they might with advantage consider the expediency of altering that.

THE D'AGUILAR LIGHT.

Mr. MacEwen—Whilst on the subject of lights, may I refer to the D'Aguilal Light. It has been considered for many years not a very good one to be approached from the north, and there was some discussion some years ago, as to putting a light on Waglan. I do not know whether any negotiations have taken place with reference to it, but I think it is worthy the consideration of your Excellency and the able men who designed the Gap Rock light.

His Excellency—I was given to understand last year in the consequence of our having undertaken the Imperial Maritime Customs promised to erect a light house on Waglan, indeed I went there in a Chinese vessel for the purpose of seeing the site, as I understood. Whether anything has been done or not I do not know, but I gathered that it was to be commenced at once. I have not seen any evidence that it has been begun, but I believe that the Customs fully intended to erect it. That and Gap Rock were both arranged by the Acting Colonial Secretary, said that, the Gap Rock lighthouse being so distant, a steam tender could be required and the expense would be very great, as compared with lights on shore, which must be borne in mind in connection with the assurance that the levy would be confined to that light.

Mr. Ryrie—Don't the Chinese Government pay for upkeep?

Mr. MacEwen reminded Mr. Lister that there was a considerable margin from the other lights.

His Excellency remarked that the subject was one dealing with the future, and he levied one cent per ton, instead of 1 cent. It would take four years to pay for the erection. They could not tell with accuracy, of course, but they were

insuring the *Gap*. In various ways the project was going to cost more than was expected, so that the one-cent levy might not do it within four years, but they could then consider generally whether the revenue for lights could bear its maintenance.

Mr. Ryrie said that it was well known among the leading merchants here that the old lights were all paid for. He remembered, when the Sinking Fund for obtaining them was formed, that the light dues were reduced. In almost all the countries that lighted their coasts—particularly America—there was no charge for it, and there were gentlemen in this Colony who felt strongly on the matter. A cent a ton might not sound very much, but those who had a large number of steamers found it a very heavy charge.

His Excellency said that Mr. Ryrie spoke with some warmth on the matter, but reminded the Council that the question had never before been raised in his time, and his attention had only been drawn to it recently. It was quite new to him to learn that the light dues had realised more than they were intended to pay. He regretted that the matter had not come up before the Estimates were considered. Mr. Ryrie was wrong, though, at any rate with respect to this year, as the lighting had cost three or four times what was received.

Mr. Ryrie—I referred to the old lights.

His Excellency modified his statement—at any rate it was much more.

The Bill was then passed, and the Council adjourned until after the holidays.

REGATTA NOTES.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Since my last notes I have had more time to devote to the study of the crews for the different events and have seen most of them at practice. My views are briefly as follows:—

On the first day the "Parsee Cup," presented for Pair-oars, should be won by E. B. Shepherd and Duer, both of whom are rowing well together, but they will nevertheless be pushed hard by Master and Blair.

Hong Pairs.—This event, as I mentioned last week, ought to prove an easy win for the "Ke-chong" representatives.

The German Cup has been reduced to three boats and Fredericka should win. Little, who strokes the "Kornblume" has materially strengthened his position by taking in Kennedy, the Scotch International rower, a proceeding considered a little bit out of the regular course, seeing that Kennedy had "scratched" his own boat at the last moment, because he found his bow, Grant, did not, quite come up to form. Bramwell has in his boat two griffins in Sample and Martini, and as they have not quite answered expectations, the prospect of this boat winning is somewhat remote.

"The Brokers Cup" for double sculls has three entries, and I am of opinion that W. H. Potts and E. B. Shepherd will win. "Big" Fredericka and "Little" Fredericka are also in it, as well as Bramwell and Davidson, and a good race should be the result.

The Ladies' Purse is looked upon as a good thing for either Shepherd's or Master's crews. The Naval men are not so good as last year having lost their No. 3, but still they have been doing capital work and I would not be at all surprised at seeing them pull this event off. Laing has a nicely balanced crew and should show up prominently.

The Chairman's Cup has six entries and for this Fredericka has a show, although Duer, his No. 3, will have had plenty of work up to this point, and may not be able to respond when the time comes. Stephen has a good man in Bramwell, but I cannot say much of his No. 2 and his bow; the latter is a griffin and still requires a deal of coaching. Master has Martini, with Henderson and Duncan; E. B. Shepherd has Little No. 3, Blair, No. 2, and Thompson, bow, and this crew should do well, although bow is not so fit as he might be. Davidson has Stickleby for his No. 3, in this contest and ought not to be far from winning, if the form displayed a day or two ago is anything to go by. Kennedy's lot are somewhat light, Sample being No. 3, Duncan No. 2, and Bruce, bow.

On the second day the Junior Sculls ought to be won by W. H. Potts, although he is not such a "funny" as one would expect to see in a race of this kind. Martini row well, and he and "Young Fredericka" will make Potts do his best throughout a stiff journey.

Practically the same crews are in for the Garrison Cup as for the Ladies' Purse and I expect to see either Stickleby or Davidson prove successful.

The American Cup is a very open race, but I take Kennedy's crew for choice.

The "Members" Cup will be picked from those who are not previous winners at the Regatta.

The hint given last year about launching following the boats, will I hope be taken to heart, and all those in charge of the craft will greatly oblige the Committee by keeping behind the last competing

